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SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY China (Sinkiang)

SUBJECT Soviet Troops in Sinkiang/The National Army of
the East Turkestan People's Republic

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1. 19 January 1934 to August 1934: On 19 Jan 34 Soviet troops and war equipment were brought into Sinkiang and into action against the Moslem forces, which were under the leadership of the Tungan General Ma Chung-yin. This Soviet help enabled Sheng Shih-tsai to gain mastery of Sinkiang and to then embark on a 10-year policy of "Kinship to Sovietism". The Soviet troops at that time were brought into Sinkiang under the guise of being White Russian "volunteers" from the Altai and Tarbagatai Regions of Sinkiang. They were equipped with trucks, armored cars, machine-guns, heavy artillery pieces and even airplanes. 50X1
2. 1938 to October 1943: Due to the Japanese blockade of the coast of China, the Sinkiang supply route was more important to the Chinese forces, though less publicized, than the Burma Road. Between 1938 and up to the time of Sheng Shih-tsai's removal as Governor of Sinkiang and the ousting of all Soviet military and civilian personnel from Sinkiang (October 1943), the Soviets supplied the Chinese forces with military equipment, via Sinkiang. The heaviest traffic was between 1939 and 1941. During these years the main east-west highway through Sinkiang (which starts at Khorgos on the Soviet border and passes through the Sinkiang towns of Wusu, Manass (Suilai), Urumchi (Tihwa), Chikurting (Tsikiotsing), Hami (Qomul) and Singsingsia into Kansu) was in constant use by Soviet truck convoys. Each convoy usually consisted of 40 trucks and carried rifles, small arms, artillery pieces, ammunition, disassembled aircraft and other miscellaneous military equipment. When these convoys passed through Urumchi, and this happened almost every day between 1939 and 1941, they always did so after dark. Prior to the time that the Soviet trucks would enter the town and rumble through the streets, at intervals of approximately one minute, local militia would line the route to be taken by the trucks while others ordered everyone into their homes. During one period they even covered all of the windows, facing onto streets which were used by the truck convoys, with canvas blinds. Throughout this period, 1938 to October 1943, the Soviets maintained cavalry and armored motorized units in Hami to patrol and guard the Sinkiang approaches from Kansu Province, especially the Singsingsia Gorge. 50X1

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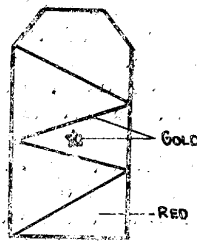
3. December 1943 to March 1944: Armed clashes between Sinkiang Provincial troops and Mongolian troops occurred along the Sinkiang-Mongolian frontier. During these series of border incidents which occurred over the treatment of Kazakh nomads in the Altai area, Soviet and Chinese military aircraft went into action. 50X1
4. 7 November 1944 to June 1946: During the 7 Nov 44 Soviet sponsored uprising in Kuldja (Ining) and the subsequent fighting which resulted in the separation of the three northwestern regions of Sinkiang (Ili, Tarbagatai and Altai) and the establishment of the East Turkistan People's Republic [redacted] Soviet troops were used to do most of the fighting. During the actual hostilities (which occurred in the winter of 1944) the Soviet troops, including the officers, always wore half-length brown lamb coats and fur hats and absolutely no identifying insignia. These fur coats had two pockets and a high collar. Their military equipment was not marked in any way, except that the trucks and armored cars had small Soviet flags displayed on the hood. The Soviet aircraft which participated in this war, especially in the bombardment of Chinese military aircraft stationed at Kuldja and Manass, were clearly marked with Soviet insignias. After these hostilities ended, the Soviet troops were withdrawn from Sinkiang (East Turkistan People's Republic) and replaced by hundreds of Soviet officers who commanded and trained the Turkestan National Army of the ETPR. 50X1

[redacted] Soviet troops
or officers who were in ETPR, [redacted] 50X1

[redacted] wore a green jacket which they referred to as "kitil'ia". This jacket had four pockets; the sleeves were trimmed with a red cord, about 11 centimeters from the edge of the sleeve; and the collar was trimmed with this same red cord. The only other decoration on their jackets were epaulets, which had a red background. Their pants were also green and had a red cord running down each pant leg, along the seam, and thin red stripes on both sides of the cord. In summer they wore regular Soviet Army caps and in winter they switched to fur hats and donned the same, half-length brown lamb coats that they wore during the fighting. [redacted] 50X1

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5. June 1946 to 29 December 1949: During this period there were no Soviet troops stationed in ETPR (the northwestern three regions of Sinkiang). There were, however, heavy Soviet troop concentrations at Khorgos and Bakhty, on the Soviet side of the Soviet-Sinkiang frontier. In ETPR there were many Soviet officers who were serving in the ETPR National Army as officers, military advisors and instructors. When the National Army was first created, all the officers were Soviets. At the time that the Chinese Communists took over Sinkiang and ETPR (29 Dec 49), [redacted] half of the officers of the ETPR National Army were still Soviets, the rest being Soviet-trained local Moslems and Russians. At that time it was claimed that the Chinese Provincial troops of Sinkiang totalled approximately 60 thousand men (mostly Tungans) and their largest concentration was at the Ploshiadka Airfield, just west of Urumchi. The ETPR National Army was composed of three full brigades, which were scattered throughout the three regions of ETPR. A full brigade in the National Army was made up of four regiments, each regiment having 1,500 men. The military headquarters of the National Army was in Kuldja. 50X1

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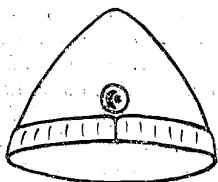
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6. ETPR National Army Uniforms and Insignia:

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a. Enlisted Men's Summer Uniforms:

- (1) knee-high, black leather boots
- (2) green pants
- (3) green shirt with two pockets (not tucked under pants)
- (4) clip-on type epaulets
- (5) wide black leather belt with a plain brass buckle (worn over shirt)
- (6) greenish-brown felt hat with a three inch black band running around and split at the front and back. This band is occasionally turned down to shield eyes, face and neck from the sun. It looks something like this:

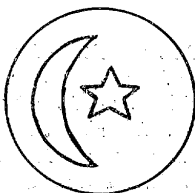
b. Enlisted Men's Winter Uniforms:

- (1) felt boots (worn over the leather boots)
- (2) light blue cotton-padded pants
- (3) light blue jacket (kufaika) with a high closed collar and four large pockets
- (4) wide black leather belt with a plain brass buckle (worn over the jacket)
- (5) brown lamb coat (length - just below the knees)
- (6) brown lamb hat
- (7) fur gloves

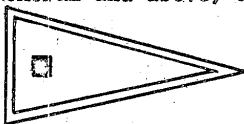
c. Variations in Officers' Uniforms:

- (1) all leather articles (boots and belt) were red instead of black
- (2) red leather shoulder strap (worn over left shoulder and clipped onto right front and back portions of belt)
- (3) winter uniform was identical to that of the enlisted man, but black in color
- (4) summer hats were identical to Soviet Army caps
- (5) winter fur coats and hats were black instead of brown

- d. Hat Insigne: The following insigne (which was made of cloth and had a blue background with a gold star, five pointed, and crescent) was worn by both officers and enlisted men on summer and winter hats.



- e. Epaulets: The following epaulets had a blue background, red trim and white squares (kubik) and bars (shpala). The stars and wavy stripe (Major General and above) appearing on the officers' epaulets were gold:



Private (Prostoy Soldat)



Corporal (Kapral)













Sergeant (Serzhant)

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	Sergeant-major (Fel'dfebel')
	Ensign (Praporshchik)
	Sub-Lieutenant (Podporuchik)
	Lieutenant (Poruchik)
	Captain (Kapitan)
	Major (Maior)
	Lieutenant Colonel (Podpolkovnik)
	Colonel (Polkovnik)
	Major General (General Maior)
	Lieutenant General (General Poruchik)

(Never saw this epaulet. General of the Army (General Armii)
He was in Kuldja)

7. June 1950 on: A Soviet armored motorized unit was again stationed in Hami. It was charged with guarding the eastern approaches to Sinkiang, particularly the Singsingsia Gorge.

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